

Media, PA — From helping to kick start a small business venture to financing one's college degree, state, federal and private grants can provide critical funding to advance the goals and projects of both individuals and organization. To provide more information about these opportunities to local community members, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7) hosted a Funding Forum for Individuals and Organizations at Delaware Community College on Saturday, February 9. The event, which was open to the public and private organizations, featured an overview of how to apply for state and federal grants. — "This forum presented an opportunity for individuals and organizations to engage in a dialogue with their federal representative and learn how to obtain the resources they need to finance projects that enhance their lives and often enrich the larger community," said the Congressman. "I'm so pleased that so many people took time out of their busy weekends to attend this seminar, which was held for the purpose of making government more accessible to the public as well as private colleges and organizations."

After addressing the group, the Congressman took questions and provided digital copies of the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding.

After contacting a number of Congressional offices and consulting with government websites, Congressman Sestak determined there was no single resource available to educate the public about grants and other federal resources. With this understanding, the Congressman chose to develop a user-friendly resource guide for his constituents.

After searching for an easy-to-use manual to help his constituents, Congressman Sestak compiled the guide, the first of its kind, and made it downloadable from his web site to serve as an aid in searching for funding. It can be found at [www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml](http://www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml).

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.